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ALEXANDRIA:

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 19, 1859.

The National Intelligencer, in its able and elaborate review of the Territorial question, when giving a history of the proceedings of Congress with regard to the famous Kansas-Nebraska bill, says, that whilst the friends of the bill differed as to its true interpretation, there was one common advantage which they all promised themselves from its passage, and that was the total banishment of the subject of slavery from the halls of Congress. "We were told," says the Intelligencer, "that this would be the beneficial consequence of the bill. There might, indeed, be turmoil in the Territories under the operation of the new system, but if there was to be contention over slavery anywhere, it was better that the unseemly strife should be localized, than that the whole nation should be set by the ears every time a new Territory was to be opened for occupation. How well this promise has been realized, can be learned from a perusal of Congressional debates during the last few years."

Governor Magoffin, of Kentucky, in his Inaugural Address, thus alludes to the spasmodic effort which is making, in certain quarters, to revive the African Slave Trade:

"Kentucky, calling not in question the motives or morality of other sections, is firmly united in resistance to the reopening of the African slave-trade. She is stubbornly opposed to the introduction of any such tests of political orthodoxy. She will give no countenance at this time, come from what quarter it may, to any movement that looks to a dissolution of the Union. With seven hundred miles of line bordering on free States, we must think more calmly, and act with more discretion. The position of Kentucky, ever loyal, ever true to the Union, is to avoid the ultraisms of the South, and the treason and fanaticism of the North."

The telegraphic dispatches last week mentioned quite a formidable riot that occurred on Wednesday night at Manchester, New Hampshire. The firemen there were holding a tournament, or festival, and some trouble took place between them and a gang of gamblers. The firemen, thereupon, assembled at night, attacked the premises occupied by the gamblers, and, after hard fighting, took possession, ransacked the premises, and smashed the furniture; two other houses, supposed to be occupied by gamblers, were also demolished. The mob then attacked the American Hotel, the windows of which were broken and other damage done. Here they were addressed by several respectable firemen, who begged them to desist from their work of destruction, which they were finally induced to do.

The funeral of Sergeant Ralph Pike, of the tenth infantry, U. S. A., who was recently shot dead in the public streets, in Salt Lake City, by a Mormon named Spencer, (and who has escaped,) was attended by three regiments of infantry, a squadron of dragoons, a battery of light artillery, and a detachment of sappers and miners. The officers of each regiment, in full uniform, followed in the rear of the respective corps. Gen. Johnson and his staff following in the rear of the whole. Several other assassinations are charged upon the Mormons, and great excitement exists.

The New York correspondent of the National Intelligencer says—"It is gratifying to observe that the united voice of the New York press—a single instance excepted—takes issue with the speeches and resolutions that came off at 'Volks Garden' on Thursday evening last. In spite of the pretences made about oppressions which arise from the religious observance of Sunday, and the taking of an oath on the New Testament, the press and the people feel that the yoke of the one, if it be a yoke, is very easy, and that the burden of the other, if a burden it can be called, is exceedingly light."

Ex-United States Senator James Cooper, of Pennsylvania, has recently addressed a letter to his friends and the public, on the question of cheap postage and protection for the iron interest. He is in favor of reducing our rate of postage to correspond with that of Great Britain, and the establishment of a national factory for the more economical supply of stamps and stamped envelopes. As regards the iron interest, he is of opinion that should Congress afford it adequate protection against foreign competition, it will outstrip in magnitude every other interest in the country.

The policy of the "Regency" section of the New York Democratic Convention at Syracuse, in adopting, almost without change, the nominations for State officers of the contesting faction, will attract general attention. It was astute beyond a doubt, but its authors will scarcely head the feuds between the clans by the move, though they may greatly strengthen the candidates thereby. The feelings of the hostile factions are too decided, and Fernando Wood and his friends will not soon forget the humiliation to which it was the purpose of the "Regency" section to reduce them.

A disastrous fire occurred at Chicago on the night of the 15th, consuming two blocks, bounded by Clinton north, Canal, West, Lake, Fulton, and Jefferson streets. Thence the fire communicated to the Vulcan works, destroying the block bounded by Fulton, Carroll, Clinton, and north Jefferson streets. The two blocks adjoining were partially destroyed. The total loss is set down at \$500,000, with an insurance of about \$250,000.

An arrival from Port au Prince, Hayti, brings intelligence that the daughter of President Geffard was shot dead, while sitting in her father's chair, from the palace gardens, on the evening of the 3d. Great excitement prevailed in consequence, and very little business was doing. Mour was dull at \$2.40 Haytian money. General Prophe, ex-minister of the interior, and his son, have come passengers to New York.

The old press at which Franklin worked in Boston, on the New England Courant, in 1720, has been preserved for more than a century in the office of the Newport Mercury. The Mercury was established by James Franklin, brother of the philosopher, who then owned and used the press. It has recently been sold, and is now the property of John B. Murray, Esq., of the firm of John B. Murray & Co., bankers, New York city. Mr. Murray is already the owner of one press at which Benjamin Franklin worked in Watt's printing house, near Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, in 1725-6. This old press Mr. Murray procured in London in 1841, and deposited for safe keeping in the U. S. Patent Office at Washington, in 1842, where it still remains. The only two presses identified with the name of Benjamin Franklin, are now under one ownership, and will be kept together during the life time of the owner.

The Massachusetts Democratic Convention have appointed four delegates at call to the Charleston Convention—Caleb Cushing, Isaac Davis, Oliver Stephens, and Jas. S. Whitney. All of these are claimed as popular sovereignty men. The Committee on resolutions reported a long series, in which the doctrine of popular sovereignty is spoken of in high terms of approval. The Administration of Mr. Buchanan is highly complimented for its foreign and domestic policy, but the resolutions also distinctly recognize as Democratic, the idea that the American flag covers and protects the native or naturalized citizen, wherever he may be.

The Charlestown Free Press says: "We don't intend to venture to send our paper to any one who does not pay us. We can't live on any such patronage—and we will hand them over to any of our contemporaries who may be more fortunate than ourselves, to buy paper, pay hands, &c. upon empty nothing."

The recent experiments that have been made—and several of them, it is said successfully made—in running steam carriages on common roads, are attracting much attention. In England, France, and in this country, the subject is prosecuted with much zeal.

We have received a copy of the able and eloquent address delivered before the Society of Alumni of the Virginia Military Institute, on Monday, July 4th, 1859, by Joseph Mayo, Jr., esq., of Westmoreland county, Va.

The city council of Portsmouth, Va., has passed an ordinance making it a fine of \$5 for any person under 21 years of age to run with fire apparatus.

The first drove of stock cattle from Tennessee, passed through Wytheville, Va., for the East on Friday, 900 in number, and looked fine. Prices ranged at high figures.

Preparing for Emergencies.

In view of the probability of having a stump candidate, and thus having the North Western Democracy severed from the Democracy of the South, public attention should be directed to the selection of some man, by the Charleston Convention, of known soundness of principle, of tried ability and devotion to the rights of every section, of tested firmness in defence of Southern institutions, of proved talents as a popular orator, of personal courage, of unblemished reputation, of business capacity; in fact a man whose public and private character, and whose executive capacity will give him a position and a hearing in every section of the country. Such a man in public discussions would present the questions, now being discussed by Judge Douglas, to the people of the country in all their bearings. Such a candidate would acquaint the people of each section with the constitutional rights of both North and South. He would inculcate a regard for rights and also inform the Northern people plainly and fully what they might expect if constitutional rights are denied and assailed. A canvass from such a candidate would do much to dispel the clouds that now threaten the Union; it would teach the people constitutional rights; it would construe the platform alike in both sections, and place the Democracy upon principles common to the whole country. And why should the Presidency be exalted above popular discussion?

Since 1855, when Gov. Wise initiated public discussion for the gubernatorial office, and adopted open, face-to-face and hand-to-hand popular addresses, instead of the double meaning, disguised platforms and letters, the system of public speaking has become common to all the States, and even in the Illinois Senatorial contest it was selected as the best mode of instructing the people upon the issue involved in the election. We are, therefore, inclined to prefer popular discussion to a double-faced platform.

We do not wish to be understood as advocating popular discussion for the Presidency, but only as indicating a policy to be served in the selection of a candidate by the Charleston Convention. In our opinion, that body should make such a nomination as the probability of the necessity for popular discussion may dictate.—*Rich. Enquirer.*

FROM BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE.—An American resident in Buenos Ayres writes under date of July the 5th: "We are passing through a year of great pecuniary embarrassment to the country. The unusual droughts of the Summer have been followed by cold rains, so that the winter which is upon us will most likely reverse all the gains of the preceding year in the loss of the crops. Cattle and horses are at such small prices as are obtained for beef cattle, and the horses are poorly fitted for ordinary work. To this must be added a state of war, when the resources of the country in men and money are carefully kept within the country, and the general depression may be conceived. The people feel sensibly the change from the highly prosperous times of two years ago."

SINGULAR DEATH.—Mr. E. S. Heistand, clerk in the drug store of Mowry & Vance, at Mansfield, Ohio, lost his life in a singular manner on a Saturday last. The Baumer says he was endeavoring to extinguish a burning bottle of Damar varnish, which, having boiled over, caught fire on the outside from the flame of the fluid lamp in the furnace, and as the store was in danger of taking fire from the close proximity of combustible articles, he hurriedly grasped the bottle by the neck and passed out at the back door with it, when, just as he was placing it on a store-box, it exploded, throwing the contents over his arms, limbs and body, which were so horribly burnt he could pass through the store to the street and receive assistance, as to cause his death in a few hours.

How to Look Young.—How is it that some men, thought to be so old, still look so young, while others, though young, look old? The cause very frequently lies with themselves. Mr. Kant once said, on being asked the reason:

"I never ride when I can walk; I never eat but one dish for dinner; I never get drunk. My walking keeps my blood in circulation, my simple diet prevents indigestion, and my never touching wine keeps my liver from being eaten alive." But he forgot to add one of the greatest causes of lasting youth—"a kind unassuming heart." Envy can dig as deeply into the human face, as time itself.

News of the Day.

"To show the very age and body of the times."

The exemption of New Orleans during the present year from yellow fever, has given a great impetus to building operations in that city. It appears from a statement in the Daily Crescent, that the buildings erected or commenced, but not yet finished, during the year ending the 31st ult., are estimated to cost \$2,730,293, of which \$875,000 is on dwellings. The Crescent says there is a scarcity of workmen, and the wages paid are higher than for many years past. Material is also very high.

The miscellaneous and law library of the late Mr. Chouteau will be sold by public sales during the month of October. The miscellaneous library comprises upwards of seven thousand volumes, including a large number of very valuable works, serials, and standard authors, classical works, &c. The law library will comprise upwards of three thousand volumes, and, of course, one of the best libraries in the States.

The London correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser writes that the proprietors of the Great Eastern steamer had been compelled to close the saloon of that vessel to public inspection, on account of the vandalism of visitors. During the first few days of exhibition they despoiled the furniture and upholstery of the room, cut names upon the doors, carried away mementoes, &c.

According to the national census of June, 1850, our increase of population for the last sixty years nearly averages 33 per cent. annually. The last decade, therefore, beginning June, 1850, and ending June, 1860, will add to the population of the United States since 1850, 7,305,540 souls, which will give in 1860 a population for the United States of 30,500,000.

At the last term of the Circuit Court of Page county, Judge Kenney decided the important suit of D. & H. Forrer vs. Richards, Bros. & Co., in favor of the Plaintiffs, Counsel for the Plaintiffs, Col. Baldwin, J. T. Harris and Moses Walton; for the Defendants, Messrs. Menefee, Moffett and Bost. There was a large amount—\$250,000—involved in the decision of the suit.

A number of orders for the new patent envelopes having been already filed in the department, the Postmaster General has directed that the contractor furnish half a million of self-sealing envelopes ordered by the Department in boxes and packages suitable for immediate distribution to the post offices. It is expected that the envelopes will be ready by the 1st of October.

The efforts of the citizens of Pittsburg and Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, to avoid the payment of the interest on the bonds issued by their respective local authorities, are bringing them into all sorts of troubles. The latest is a levy upon the gas stock of the city of Pittsburg, under an execution obtained by Messrs. Oelrichs & Co., of New York. The points involved in this proceeding are now pending in the United States Court at Pittsburg.

The Rockingham Register says—"Small game, of all kinds, such as pheasants, partridges, quails, &c., is exceedingly abundant just now in all this region. Sportsmen are popping them over and bringing them down in every direction. There is a very great abundance of partridges, especially. The fields are alive with them."

The Kentucky papers notice the death on Rock Castle river, in that State, of Urial Gresham, a native of King William county, Va. He was for many years a member of the Kentucky Legislature, and fought under Gen. St. Clair in 1792, and was one of "Mad Anthony" Wayne's soldiers in 1794.

The editor of the Culpeper Republican recently paid a visit to the studio of the Virginia artist, W. R. Barbee, where several new pieces of statuary are to be found. We are pleased to learn that Mr. B. is reaping the reward of his long and arduous study in this difficult branch of the Arts.

The late Mr. Edward Reilly, hotel keeper, Stonybattery, Dublin, has married a large property to his daughter Mary, who is a dress maker, and is supposed to be present resident in the United States. Mr. Thomas Russell, 309, Fulton street, New York, will furnish her with further particulars.

The Virginia papers advocate a general celebration of the anniversary of the battle of Yorktown, on the 19th of October next. They propose that all the citizen soldiery of the State should encamp upon the battle ground and celebrate the day in a proper style.

A brief paragraph said to be inaccurate in relation to a difficulty between Mr. And. E. Kennedy, Jr. and Mr. W. W. Randolph, copied from a Martinsburg paper, has lately been published. Mr. K. has published his statement in the Charleston papers, where those interested can see it.

The Hon. J. H. Reagan's majority for Congress in the fourth district, in Texas, so far as ascertained, is 20,534; Reagan having 22,967 and Ochiltree 3,437. Ochiltree was in favor of reopening the African slave trade, and Reagan decidedly opposed to the measure.

President Mora, who was lately banished from Costa Rica, and is now in New York city, is very wealthy. One of his estates, principally for sugar, is worth from \$200,000 to \$400,000. He has a coffee estate besides, worth \$50,000.

No less than four bears were seen, on Monday last, in the neighborhood of A. P. Nicholas, esq., in Rockingham County. A number of gentlemen in the neighborhood started out to hunt them.

By an arrival at Baltimore we learn that the U. S. ship John Adams and the brig Dolphin were at Rio Janeiro on the 14th of Aug. The latter had just arrived from the River Plate.

One of the quickest passages on record, between Rio Janeiro and New York, has just been made by the barque Roebuck, in less than thirty-two days. She brought a cargo of coffee.

Ex-President Fillmore, it is stated, is about to make a tour of the New England States, and while in New Hampshire, will be the guest of ex-President Pierce.

A general court-martial meets at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., to-day, under Special Orders No. 87 from Headquarters, for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it.

A letter, purporting to be written by Senator Douglas, to Lucy Stone, and which has been going the rounds of the papers, is now pronounced a forgery.

James S. Foster has been convicted of setting fire to the Old Fellows' hall in Portsmouth, Va., and sentenced to the penitentiary for 5 years.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. James Bruce, of Cornum, King George county, Va.

The Shenandoah Bridge is now "passable,"—horses and wagons crossing without danger or difficulty.

A negro woman belonging to Mr. James M. Scott of Stafford county made two attempts to poison her master recently. The Frederickicks Herald says—Mr. Scott had his suspicions aroused in drinking a glass of water that tasted acidious, and of which he only took a few swallows, setting it aside for the purpose of having it analysed. About a week afterwards, having forgotten the water, he found his office had the same sour taste, and desisted drinking. The negro girl afterwards confessed to having used oleic acid.

Professor Agassiz was to embark at Liverpool, on his return home, last Saturday. His visit to Europe, has been, in all respects, satisfactory. He was received in the most cordial and distinguished manner by the scientific men of England, France, and Switzerland. He has passed most of his time among his relatives in Switzerland, but during his absence has made purchases for the Museum of Natural History. Prof. Agassiz will reopen his school for young ladies at Cambridge, in October.

Among the novelties recently introduced in ladies' apparel, is a new article of suspenders. They bear resemblance to those worn by gentlemen, except that they are made of more delicate, white elastic fabric, with frilled edge about one inch wide, and are attached to the skirt by buttons in like manner.

In a few days shall hear of the degree of success of the Great Eastern on her trial trip from the Bill of Portland. She was to run about five hundred miles. If successful, she went back to Liverpool, about twenty leagues from Liverpool, whence on the 15th instant she would set out for Portland, Maine. Passage money about one hundred dollars.

The Germans of San Francisco have held a meeting to take measures to stop the importation of dancing girls, from Germany. Large numbers of German girls, from 12 to 18 years of age, are now employed in California at low dancing houses, which are open every evening and free to all.

The New York correspondent of the Richmond Whig, expresses the opinion with confidence, that the 35 delegates from that State to the Charleston Convention will eventually go for Douglas, after they have conferred with all the other Presidential candidates.

The Leesburg Washingtonian contains an able article in favor of a corporation subscription in Leesburg, to the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire railroad.

John Rudenstien has been commissioned as surgeon, and Bennett W. Green as assistant surgeon in the United States Navy.

Rev. J. N. Danforth, formerly of this place, preached in Leesburg last week.

Delays in State Legislation.

Some persons have argued that the experiment of biennial sessions of the Legislature is a failure, because at each session of that body, since the adoption of the new Constitution, the chief part of the legislation of the session has been crowded into the few last days of the session, and as a consequence, it has been cruddy, ill-digested, and often of doubtful propriety. That would, indeed, be a strong objection to this feature of the new constitution, if this result necessarily grew out of biennial meetings of the legislative body. But such is not the fact. While it is true, that, for the last four years, legislation has been postponed until the session was just about to conclude, it is also true that the same thing happened every session before the constitution of 1850 became the organic law of the State.

We desire to say, what every well-informed man hereabouts will most heartily endorse, that the delay of the last two sessions of the Virginia Assembly, cannot be charged to the forms of proceeding which obtain in that body. It is very well known in Richmond, and to all the members of the legislature, that at each assembling of the legislature since the new Constitution went into operation, there were in both houses, men who deliberately strove to postpone, from day to day, and even until the very last hour, important measures of public legislation, to promote and advance pet schemes which they were resolved to push through, by any and every expedient, however hurtful to the general welfare of the legislature of the State. These men were aided in their efforts by another class, who desired to have the sessions prolonged beyond the period fixed by law, and by another class who endeavored to compel the Governor to convene the legislature in extra session, and by the united action of these persons, days were wasted and frittered away which would have amply sufficed for the dispatch of the ordinary business of a session of the legislature.

These are notorious facts which will not be denied, and they go far to relieve that class of the Constitution of '50, which prescribes biennial sessions of the legislature, and limits their duration to the term of ninety days, of the odium which it has been attempted to cast upon it. As an original question, we prefer, for many reasons, annual meetings of the legislature, but we are decidedly of opinion that the ninety days now allowed for a sitting of the Assembly, would suffice for the purpose, if the members would devote themselves honestly to the public business during that period. There would be no doubt of this, if members would work early in the session, as they do at a later stage, and if they would learn this other thing, that much speaking is a great folly. In a multitude of words anywhere, and at any time, there is folly, but this is peculiarly so in our legislature.—*Virginia Index.*

The Masonic Fraternity. There are now two important bodies of the Masonic Fraternity in fraternal session at Chicago. The Times of that city, gives the following concerning them.

The Grand Encampment of Knights Templars of the United States, was organized in 1816, its first convention being held June 20th of that year; the celebrated De Witt Clinton, was elected Grand Master and continued to hold the office until his death, in 1829. There have been thirteen regular conventions of this body. Hon. Wm. B. Hubbard, a Mason of great eminence, and a well known citizen of Ohio, has been Grand Master for the past twelve years.

Hon. B. B. French, of Washington, D. C., treasurer of the National Agricultural Association, is Grand Recorder. The system upon which the order of Knights Templars in the United States is established, involves a State Grand Commandery in each State. Of these there are now fifteen, and the entire order embraces about one hundred subordinate commanderies, with a membership approximating 4,000.

The General Grand Royal Chapter of the United States, is an older and much more numerous body. There are twenty-five State Grand Chapters. (The States of Kentucky and North Carolina having seceded during the last three years) under its control, and three, viz: Pennsylvania, Virginia and Florida, which have never acknowledged its authority. The only State in the Union in which there is no Grand Chapter, is Delaware. Of subordinate Chapters, there are about 800, embracing a membership of nearly 20,000. The General Grand Chapter was established in 1797. The present General Grand High Priest, is the Hon. Charles Gilman, of Baltimore, a man of great age and experience, and a long the Grand Secretary, an office now filled by the Hon. B. B. French.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10.—Lieut. Gen. Scott is to sail on Tuesday for the west of difficulties on our northwestern boundaries. He is to be accompanied by Adjutant Gen. Thomas, Lieut. Col. G. W. Lay, and Assistant Surgeon Charles H. Crane. Upon his arrival at San Francisco, he is to be taken on to his destination by special steamer, unless the regular one for carrying the mail is ready to depart. The General is also empowered to control the movements of mail steamers after reaching the Strait or Gulf of Georgia.

The President has said that our right to the Island of San Juan is clear, but the Senate rarely passes extreme claims at the hazard of war. Hence Gen. Scott's hands are not probably tied up with instructions, but in the hope of a pacific solution, or with a view to deferring a decision, a large margin of discretion will doubtless be given him.

I am authorized to state that the letter in the New York Times concerning the government finances is not official, so far as any expressions of the Secretary of the Treasury or of his assistants are concerned. They do not expect that the revenues from customs the present fiscal year, will exceed in amount the sum estimated by Mr. Cobb last December, namely fifty millions of dollars.—This is six and a half millions less than that estimated in the statement referred to above.

The amount of money in the treasury subject to draft at the close of last week, was four million, eleven hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars.

The late Convention between Great Britain and the republic of Guatemala has not excited "a renewal of angry controversy" between this country and Great Britain, as was recently predicted by the English press. On the contrary, both governments are still animated by the hope that their Central American differences will be happily adjusted.

The larger part of the Balize had never been the subject of actual survey, as was officially declared by Lord Grey in 1836; and the above mentioned convention, it is said, merely definitely fixed its territorial limits, which act was intended by Guatemala as a barrier to British encroachments on its soil. This arrangement is claimed to be in accordance with the Dallas-Clarendon treaty, a clause of which, to this effect, substantially, consenting to such an arrangement, having been ratified by the United States Senate, while the treaty itself was defeated by that body, owing to a clause therein of an anti-slavery character.

The other points proposed to be settled in the same treaty, namely: with regard to the island of Ruatan, and the surrender of the Musquito protectorate to Nicaragua, will be placed in charge of Mr. Wyke, the new British minister, and it is thought that these questions will be adjusted by him to the satisfaction of all parties concerned. Great Britain having undertaken to remove the obstructions to the full force of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty.

If any dissatisfaction exists, it is because Great Britain has first settled the point which is of the most importance to her; but this may be the result of accident; Sir William Gore Ouseley having previously sought to surrender the Musquito protectorate to Nicaragua, but in terms unsatisfactory to that republic. What he has failed to do, it is confident he expected his successor, Mr. Wyke, will accomplish.

Telegraphic Dispatches.

CHICAGO, Sept. 16.—The general grand encampment of the Knights Templar of the United States yesterday elected the following officers for the ensuing three years, viz: Grand Master, B. B. French, of Washington; Deputy Grand Master, David Goodnow, of Kentucky; Generalissimo, Winslow Lewis, of Boston; Captain General, J. V. B. Blaney, of Chicago; Senior Warden, Charles Marsh, of California; Junior Warden, A. J. Pearson, of Minnesota; Treasurer, Edward Raymond, of Boston; Recorder, L. G. Rysk, of Louisiana.

CHICAGO, Sept. 15.—The sky was cloudy to-day, but the weather was not unpleasant, and the rush of visitors to the Fair grounds was greater than ever. Over the different railroads to-day, two hundred and thirty cars arrived, bringing not less than fifteen thousand visitors. The receipts up to last evening amounted to eighteen thousand dollars. The military band, (during which four of the grandstands were presented,) and the exhibition of steam power, were the principal attractions this afternoon.

WALDMOND, Md., Sept. 15.—The fishing sloop, "Can't Come In" was capsized yesterday in a squall between Mamegan and George's Island, and sunk. Wm. Keen, master, and Charles Keen and Joseph Martin were lost. Daniel Keen, the only survivor of the crew, was rescued by a passing vessel.

OSWEGO, Sept. 15.—S. W. Brooks, of St. Louis, ascended in his balloon "Comet," from Fair Grove, at 10 o'clock, and descended yesterday afternoon, and descended yesterday evening, at 20 minutes after six. Five thousand persons witnessed the ascension.

NEWARK, Sept. 16.—Yesterday, the large building at the corner of McWhorter and East Hamilton streets, occupied by wood moulders, &c., was destroyed by fire. The loss amounted to \$20,000 or \$40,000, on which there is an insurance of \$20,000. Several firemen were injured slightly.

London County. Wm. Roley, residing in this county, near Philmont, committed suicide, at his residence, on Thursday morning, 8th instant, by shooting himself with a shot gun. His mind had been impaired for sometime before. He leaves a wife and three children.

September Court has been in session this week. An unusually large number of persons have been in attendance, and much business transacted.

THE LONDON FAIR.—We have been requested to state that the Executive Committee, in making out the list of premiums, omitted to offer a premium for three year olds, in the different grades of stock. Premiums will be awarded them as usual. We hope the citizens of the county are making all necessary preparations for the Fair. Let us have a splendid display this Fall.—*Leesburg Washingtonian.*

Gold Crop of Stafford.—The Eagle Mine.

The Eagle Gold Mine continues its rich and generous crop of gold. Col. Morgan was in town on Thursday, with a nugget weighing \$880—the product of the last week. The yield has not fallen as low as \$500 any week the Mine has been worked for the last three months. During this period the aggregate yield has been from \$7,000 to \$8,000. A very handsome per centage on the labor, which does not cost over \$100 per week.—*Fredricksburg Herald.*

THE BIG FISH.—The "Bug Fish" as they are termed, despised and rejected in this market in the spring of the year, are represented to us as being a most excellent fish at this season, when no "bug" is to be found in their head. Our informant says they are caught in very large numbers near the mouth of the Rappahannock, and they are fat, juicy, and well flavored. He has eaten them salted, and pronounces them to be superior to either herring or shad.—*Fredricksburg Herald.*

JOURNALIZING.—Early in our career, as a journalist, we were taught by a friend, a veteran editor and author, to be governed in the expression of our censure or disapproval of the conduct and course of others, by these three simple little mental reservations:—"First, is it true? Second, is it kind? Third, is it necessary?"—*Peters, Press.*

The Presidency.

We give below a list of the distinguished aspirants whose names are favorably mentioned by their respective political and personal friends, in connection with the approaching contest for this high position.—We insert these names because we think it will be likely to interest our readers—if for no other reason, as sportsmanlike—to read the names and to know the age, size, and color of every horse entered to contest an exciting race. The approaching contest will be one full of interest, and will call forth the speed, bottom and wind of every one who desires success, and the prize is certainly worth the winning. This list includes all those whose names are likely to be pressed before the conventions of the respective parties, and designating the respective States of the gentlemen named:

Illinois—Stephen A. Douglas.
Kentucky—John J. Crittenden, James Guthrie, John C. Breckinridge.
Oregon—Joseph Lane.
Tennessee—John Bell, Andrew Johnson.
California—John C. Fremont.
New York—Daniel S. Dickinson, Horatio Seymour, William H. Seward.

Michigan—Lewis Cass.

Mississippi—Jefferson Davis, Albert G. Brown.

Virginia—R. M. T. Hunter, Henry A. Wise, William L. Goggin, John Minor Butts, A. H. Stuart, W. C. Rives.

Texas—Gen. Sam. Houston.

Louisiana—John Slidell.

Georgia—A. H. Stephens, Howell Cobb.

Massachusetts—N. P. Banks, Charles Sumner, Edward Everett, R. C. Winthrop.

Maine—Wm. Pitt Fessenden.

Ohio—Thomas Corwin, John McLean, Joshua A. Giddings, Salustius P. Chase.

Pennsylvania—Simon Cameron.

Missouri—Edward Bates.

Alabama—William L. Yancey.

This list includes thirty-five names, of whom thirty-five will probably be disappointed, and most certainly they will be if they really entertain a hope of ever reaching the Presidency. There are some named in the list who, if chosen, must have two terms. We bespeak it for them; for in less than eight years they will not be able to realize the fact of their elevation to a position so high. There are many others throughout the country who, believing themselves entitled to the Presidential honor, are anxious to be called for by the Charleston Convention—the nomination of Franklin Pierce inducing them to think their very obscurity favorable to success. We have an old friend, a clever and intelligent old gentleman, who says he thinks he understands thoroughly the whole duty of the President, and thinks the expenses of the government might be curtailed materially; brought back to something of the good old times when George the Third was King, and Tom Jefferson was President. He says he thinks the salary of the President must be extravagant, he being willing to assume the duties for less than half the money.—*Brandon, (Mass.) Rep.*

The Mail Robbery Mania.

Rascality occasionally ranges in the form of an epidemic. The successful operations of one set of plunderers, are the certain prelude to other attempts, which may prove equally remunerative, or may fail, according to the degree of shrewdness that is exercised. One very unpleasant mania appears to be just now prevalent. Certain long-haired parties scattered over the country, have conceived a sudden fancy for prying into the contents of mail-bags, and extracting therefrom such available material as drafts, bank notes, small change and postage stamps. It is not the professional burglar who always breaks into your letters, nor the impolite footpad who stops the mail-coach. Four or five flagrant cases of mail robbery, reported during the past fortnight, indicate a remarkable variety in the characters of these depredators, to say nothing of the more important intimation which they give of lax management in the entire Post-office system.